

USAR_J-11_Hayashi

09:53:28:18

My name is Teruto Hayashi.

09:53:40:13

I was born on October 31, 1924.

09:53:49:09

I was born in a city which is now called Kanuma-shi, Tochigi Prefecture.

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I moved to Tokyo in April, 1939. I was fourteen years old.

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I went to Hijikibashi(?) High School, which was a vocational school to teach mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, applied sciences, and civil engineering.

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They offered 2.5-year courses. They were made up of two semesters for a preliminarily course and three semesters for a specialty which you chose. Each semester was six months. It usually took five years to finish a school, but my school taught us everything in two and a half years.

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We all went to school, working somewhere. So we didn't have time to hang out together at school. We also had military trainings twice a month. After the trainings, we stopped by a park, and enjoyed a boat ride sometimes.

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Before the graduation, my teacher gave me a job, and I started working at a public safety department of Tokyo-city.

09:56:39:04

I worked as a surveying engineer at a port, measuring the depth of a port. After that, I worked on bridge construction works as a supervisor. Bridge-building.

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When I worked on a bridge construction work, I worked with the military. But I didn't talk to them that much. We had only business talks. I didn't know anything about the military work.

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I worked as a supervisor, so I needed to talk to the military people.

09:58:12:06

I've never wanted to be a soldier. Never. But when I was a kid, I played at soldiers. After I moved to Tokyo, I was busy with school and work, so I didn't have any days off but Sundays. However, we had the military trainings just twice a month, on Sundays. So that was it, and I didn't feel like becoming a soldier. At that time, kids often played at soldiers, but in general, not everybody wanted to become a soldier. Especially, in Tokyo.

09:59:07:21

Everybody over 13 years old had to participate in the military trainings. That was why I did. Other than that, we didn't have any special training.

09:59:24:07

I participated in the military trainings after I moved to Tokyo. When I was in an elementary school, we didn't have any training.

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We had the military trainings on Sundays. Once or twice a month. Not more than three times.

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In general, we ran at the trainings, and we didn't have any bayonet drills. They were more like exercises. They were considered as a part of the curriculum. They were not special trainings at all.

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I entered an elementary school in 1931. At first, there was a picture of the Emperor in a center of an auditorium. Around 1936, no, it was around the time when the Second Sino-Japanese War started. I think it was 1937. Around 1937, schools started building Hogan-den(?). They created a pond, built a kind of shrine in the middle of it, and presented a picture of the Emperor there. We didn't do anything special to worship the Emperor. But on Yondaisetsu (the four major holidays), we displayed the picture at an auditorium, and paid a visit. That was all. We didn't have anything special to worship the Emperor at an elementary school.

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Each school had Hogan-den(?) at that time. They created a pond in a garden, built some kind of shrine, and put a picture of the Emperor in there.

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I don't why they built it. We assumed that was because they prevented the picture from catching fire. That was what our teacher told us.

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Our impression of the U.S. was... In 1933, because of the Lytton Report, Japan withdrew from the League of Nations to settle the Manchurian Incident. At that time, Japan was in a crisis, worried that the South Pacific Mandate would be captured. But nothing happened, and we didn't see nor hear anything about the U.S. for a while. If anything, the right wing talked against the U.K. and Russia, putting standing signboards. In September 1941, I started working at a public safety department of Tokyo-city. Around that time, we started hearing that Japan and the U.S. sat at the negotiating table. Before that, we didn't hear any news about the U.S., generally speaking. We never thought that we would go to war against the U.S. It was six in the morning on December 8th that I first heard about the war. I woke up at six o'clock and prepared to go to work. I heard a radio broadcast from the downstairs. It said that Japan started a war against the U.S. on the southwestern Pacific. I first found out that we were at war, and I felt nervous. We heard that the U.S. had a great power. That was all we knew about the U.S. So we thought that Japan would get involved in a serious matter. I don't think we were hostile to the U.S. at that time.

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When I went to a bathroom to wash my face, I heard the radio broadcast saying that Japan went to war against the U.S. in the early morning on December 8th.

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I rented a room upstairs in a house. I heard the news on the radio of my landlord's. Later, I found out that it was the first announcement of the war. Around nine o'clock at work, we heard a speech of Prime Minister Tojo. I didn't know anything until I heard the radio broadcast.

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I heard the news right after I woke up. I heard the news when I was about to go to work. It was the first time to hear about the war.

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Japan started a war against the U.S. Everybody knew that the U.S. was a great power, and(?) I think that everybody thought that Japan got involved in a serious matter.

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Before I went to work, I already knew about the war. At that time, only fifty percent of households in the country had radio. I knew about it by the radio broadcast. When I woke up, I heard the radio playing at loud volume. That was why I knew about the war.

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It was the first news to tell that Japan started the war.

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I think that many people at my work already listened to a radio. When we got to the office, most of people knew about the news.

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Most of us didn't think that the matter whether we went to a war against the U.S. was urgent. If anything, everybody thought that we should take decisive measures against the U.K. and other countries. But we never thought that we would lose a war. We often talked about attacking and destroying our enemy, but most of us didn't even think that the U.S. would participate in the war. I don't know what the military people were thinking.

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We, Japanese, tend to accept a situation, once something happens, because we think there is nothing for it but to do. So we all are like, "let's do it." When we heard about the success of the attack on Pearl Harbor, we ended up thinking of it as a good thing. It made us pull ourselves together. And also, listening to the speech of Prime Minister Tojo, we all braced ourselves. Though we didn't used to listen to a radio that much, we often left it on at that time, because we all wanted to know what was going on and to listen to announcements. Everybody was getting excited, once we entered the war.

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None of my family and friends went to Pearl Harbor.

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After we went to the war, a preliminary alert was announced around three o'clock in the afternoon. A blackout was enforced at night. So everything became completely dark at night. The blackout lasted for the next two days. Then, no airplanes came to Tokyo.

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The preliminary alert said that the blackout would be enforced for a few days.

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It didn't seem real to me that the U.S. would come to the mainland of Japan to attack us. I went to school at that time. We had lights in our classroom to study, though all windows were covered and sealed to prevent the light from leaking. Everybody was talking about the war. Nobody went to a war to lose it. Though we, civilians, were not optimistic about the future, we thought we would be fine.

10:13:11:13

I was working at a public safety department, but I didn't graduate from school yet. I started working there in 1941. I was at high school for two and a half years. I entered the high school in April, 1940, and graduated in September, 1942. I started working at a public safety department in September 1941.

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After I left the public safety department in the end of 1943, I started working the water department of Tokyo city.

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I had a physical examination for conscription in June, 1944. At first, I wasn't qualified for the draft, but all of sudden, I passed the examination. However, in August, they thought I was not strongly-built enough for a soldier on the active list, and they sent me to training(?) for a month. Right after the training(?), I was called up for military service. I was enrolled as a soldier on the active list.

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Two days after I got back from the training(?), I was called up for military service. I talked to my employer, and prepared for the draft.

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At that time, students were bound in duty either to serve in the army or to be engaged in agriculture. The military service was compulsory. As long as we were Japanese, we didn't have any options.

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We were soldiers on the active list.

10:17:01:16

I received a draft card on September 2nd, and I finished preparation for the draft on the 13th. Then, I went back home and stayed there till

the 20th. I left home on the 21st. And, I joined the army in Moji on the 24th. I mean Moji-shi in Kyusyu. I enlisted in the army there.

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After I enlisted in the army, I left Shimonoseki on September 28th, and passed through Korea and Manchuria, and got to Luoyang in Henan Province to have military training.

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I was bound to serve in the army. But I had some back pain. We had old chairs. I didn't have any special feelings nor felt nervous about it at all. I don't know what the others felt about it.

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We were not told where to go. We just got on a ship. All we knew was that we were going abroad. We were staying on the deck until we couldn't see the land of Japan. Because we were not sure what would happen in our future. We stayed on the deck until the land of Japan went out of sight, and then we went down. We were on a cargo ship. The sea was rough. When we got to Pusan, we felt sick.

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I felt sick before I felt homesick. I didn't feel homesick at all. I couldn't help feeling so sick.

10:20:45:00

We went to Pusan by ship, and made a landing there. Then, we got on train, and after we passed through Kaesong(?) and Pyongyang, we saw a vast expanse of land(?). When we got to ____ (?) and a panoramic view of the ocean spread out before us, I was so impressed. It was so beautiful. We left Japan on the 28th, and left Pusan on the 29th, and arrived at Mukden in the morning on October 1st.

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I mean Pusan in Korea.

10:22:15:02

When we arrived at Mukden, we had red rice for breakfast. When I took the first mouthful, I found out it was sorghum, not rice. I thought we would have to eat it every day. Not rice, but sorghum.

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After the breakfast in Mukden, we left for Shanhaiguan. It was located in a boundary line between Manchuria and Hebei Province in China.

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We passed through Shanhaiguan in the evening on the 1st. After we passed there, we saw the beautiful moon over Bohai Sea at night. When a first-class officer came to get us, he also saw the moon. He stayed with us for a week. He told us that his home was near there, but he was on duty, so he couldn't go home. He couldn't even see his family. I saw him shed tears because the beautiful moon made him sentimental.

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After Shanhaiguan, we passed through Tianjin, and we arrived at Mukden. Oh, not Mukden, we arrived at Beijing. We rested for two hours at a station in front of Forbidden City(?). Then, we took a train again, and we passed through Baoding, then, we changed trains at Xinxiang. At the next station after Xinxiang, we got off the train, because there was a commissariat. We got the full gears at the commissariat. Before that, we didn't have any gears. We were supplied with the full gears for the first time. After that, we walked to Luoyang.

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Luoyang was located in the northern part of Henan Province in China.

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It was the first time that we were supplied with the full gears. Since we were already there, I didn't have any options. Then, we stayed overnight at _____(?). Next day we started walking to Luoyang. At _____(?), when we went to a farmhouse, we saw about a hundred horses at the front. We slept on piled straw. I realized that we stayed at a stable. It was the first time that I felt how harsh the front could be.

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Then, we started walking. Next morning, we were provisioned for two weeks. After that, we left there on foot.

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We walked all the way to Luoyang. We kept walking since on the 3rd.

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We were provisioned at Luoyang. _____(?)

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We were trained at Luoyang till November 17th.

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Then, we walked to Zhengzhou. We took a train there, and we went to Fuzhou. We got there on December 14th.

10:27:52:01

I wasn't sick yet when I got there.

10:28:11:11

A regiment(?) was at Guilin, so we went there to join it. We were following them to join it. The regiment was on a mission in Guilin. It had been working on Operation Ichi-Go since January, 1944. We went there to participate in the operation.

10:29:02:22

Nothing happened until December 19th. However, around 8 o'clock in the evening on the 19th, we had a big air raid by the U.S. Every day and every night, about 800 to 1000 a day of B-29 bombed us.

10:29:39:14

Nothing happened until eight o'clock in the evening on the 19th. The U.S. started bombing at eight. About 800 to 1000 a day of B-29 bombed us. Hundreds of the Grumman escorted the bombers. I think they were 200 to 300. They came to us every two hours. Until five o'clock in the morning. Then, they started around 8:30 in the morning, and kept bombing us till the evening. Till six o'clock in the evening. Every two hours they showed up.

10:30:51:15

Japan placed the headquarters of Operation Ichi-Go in Hankou, well, in Wuhan. It was the headquarters of ____ (?). There was hundreds of thousands of soldiers staying all the time. Then, they were moving to ____ (?). Thus, the U.S. thought that they could stop our operation if they bombed the base. So their mission was to kill us. To kill and wound us. From our point of view, they bombed to kill and wound us. They started bombing us at night. So we couldn't see the outside well. We heard loud noises when they dropped bombs. The width of Yangtze River is 1200 meters between Hankou and Wuhan. ____ (?) was approaching to the half of the width of Yangtze River. It was so dark. We could see vaguely just around us at night. We could see a shape of a house vaguely. At the daytime, we couldn't see anything because of too many bombs. The bombing darkened the sight. Sometimes we saw fire with sounds of machine guns of the Grumman. Other than that, it was so dark. We were ordered to repair roads destroyed by the bombing. We covered big holes with gravel. We couldn't finish our duty. There were more holes one after another. Wuhan was under Japanese occupation for a long time, and it was a peaceful area. However, we were afraid that the residents of the area

rose in rebellion against us, because of the harsh bombing. We were ordered to repair roads to operate tanks. Wuhan is very hot in summer, and the temperature reaches more than 40 degree C. Conversely, it goes down minus 20 degree C in winter. We had to work in the cold weather and in a cutting wind from Yangtze River, so many people caught cold and developed a fever. While working on the repair of roads, I had a temperature of 40.3 degree C, though a nurse told me about it later. I was sent to a military hospital in Fuzhou. It was in the evening on January 20th. At night on January 20th, 1945.

10:34:44:18

When I worked at the previous night, I didn't say anything. Around the time when my shift was over, I felt more pain around the stomach. Though I felt sick, I couldn't take a day off, because it was an order and it was a part of the operation. I couldn't refuse it, so I went to work. I was carrying gravel and cover a hole with it as usual. While working, my mind went blank all of sudden. At the moment, I saw a Lieutenant. He was holding me. I heard him saying, "You are fine. Don't worry." Then, I passed out. When I realized, we were walking in the field. I smelled a fresh air. Then, I saw clouds gathering. And, it got more cloudy, and it looked like a thick wall. Then, I woke up. I found out that the wall was an old ceiling. The old ceiling board was black. When I looked around the room, a nurse came in. I saw something white come in. She said, "He is alive." And she got out of the room. I was wondering where I was. Then, about twenty of doctors and nurses came in my room. It was a big room. It was as big as 14 to 15 tatami mats. There was a bed in the center of the room. I was sleeping on it.

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It was a military hospital in Fuzhou.

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I was in a single room for a month. They were not sure what was wrong with me. Then, they found out I was suffering from ____ (?). And, I think they decided to send me back to Japan. When I passed out, I don't remember anything. I was told that I still held a shovel when I fell down. I got sick on my duty, so they allowed me to come back home. They sent two telegrams to my family, while I was sick. After they sent the second telegram, saying "He won't make it," I recovered consciousness. Two days after that. It rarely happened. It was rare that a patient on whom doctors gave up regained consciousness. I had a high temperature of 40.3 degree C for a while. Everybody at the hospital was so impressed about my recovery that they treated me well. For a month, I had rehabilitation training to develop my strength before coming back to Japan. Then, I barely

walked with a nurse's assistance, and I was moved to a large room with other patients. I stayed there for a month. There was _____ (?) in Wuhan University. I was transferred there on March 20th. I had a single room there, and then, I got promoted to the first-class Private in April. Before that, I was the second-class Private. I thought that older soldiers might treat a new Private harshly, and (?) When I got back at _____ (?), I knew for sure that I got promoted to a Private. But at that time, I didn't know why I got the promotion. I thought I was still the second-class Private. Then, I was transferred to a military hospital in Hankou on April 14th. I stayed there till May 30th. I went there by train. During the day, the Japanese military couldn't operate railroad lines, because it was dangerous. It operated them only for a few hours at night. Then, the train went up to the north, and we got to Xinxiang. When we had been to the commissariat before, it had been fine. But it was destroyed by fire and the train couldn't stop by. We couldn't go to Beijing via Baoding. So we had to change routes. We went to Kaifeng, then to Xuzhou, and we changed the trains there, and we arrived at Beijing. It was on June 14th. We arrived at Beijing on June 14th, and we left there on July 1st. I was transferred to a military hospital in _____ (?) on July 1st. And I petitioned for my transfer to Hiroshima military hospital three times, but all of them were turned down because there were no trains available. I petitioned twice in July, and on August 4th. When my last petition was rejected, I had a high temperature of 39 degree C. I couldn't eat anything, and I was just sleeping. Then the war ended on August 15th. At the night of August 15th, they started closing the hospital to transfer everything and everybody to Hiroshima. All patients who could walk were gathered outside with their belongings. They ordered us to burn everything, such as an identifier. After burning everything, I felt like a person without a registered. We left for _____ (?) at five o'clock in the morning on April 16th. It usually took two hours, but we got there around nine o'clock. On our way, we got some help from students. When we got there, the schedule was delayed. Our train finally departed around five o'clock in the afternoon. It departed, but it went slow. We were not sure when we could leave there. We were in the train without eating dinner. We arrived at _____ (?) on the 18th. It was right before Mukden. We got off the train to get some food. Then, while eating, we heard a train to Mukden arrive. But we missed it because we were still eating. So we had to stay there till the night on 19th. Then, we left there at night and arrived at Mukden at six o'clock in the morning. We were supposed to have breakfast and leave there soon. But all railroads at Mukden were jammed, and nobody could leave there. Then, we just waited till noon, without breakfast. Then, all patients were left alone there, and only doctors and nurses left for Japan. We had breakfast around one o'clock in the afternoon, and we had to walk for two hours. Then, we

arrived at a hospital of _____ (?). But it was already full, so we stayed at an auditorium. It was on 19th. At that time, the Soviet Union was not there yet. There was the headquarters of a regiment of military policemen nearby the hospital. We were told that we could get some clothes there. When we got there, there were a lot of clothes left behind. We collected a lot of clothes, especially winter clothes, because we would go to a cold area. When we woke up next morning, on 20th, there were so many Soviet soldiers. In the evening, about 2000 to 3000 Japanese residents came there for safety. Most of them were women. They all had close-cropped hair. We all were taken in there. We were provided with meals, but with no medical treatment. We lived in such a circumstance. We heard the radio broadcast, repeating that the war was over. Then, the word "Manchuria" was never used anymore. The radio broadcast said that all Japanese on the area, which used to be Manchuria, would be able to come back to Japan in six months or a year. And also, the soldiers would be discharged from military service within a year by G.H.Q. Until we left Manchuria, they kept telling us that. We also believed it. But the war was not completely over yet. In August, the Soviet military plundered us. But they didn't take any foods. They raped women. While sleeping, we were also attacked by the Soviet soldiers and they took watches and pens, aiming guns at us. That was all. But we had one soldier after another for a week, and we couldn't sleep at night. They wore a lot of watches, which they took from us, on their arm to show off. But they were gone around the end of August. We had some peaceful time for a while. Some Manchurian people came to see Japanese sweets and tofu. They cost around three to five sen. I bought them sometimes. We had some foods, but we were eating sorghum. So tofu was rare. In Manchuria, we couldn't drink unboiled water, because it contained a lot of amebas. Japanese always boiled water and then cooled it down. But Manchurian people didn't do that. They used unboiled water to make tofu, so many Japanese suffered from dysentery. But not so many people died. I think about ten out of 300 people died of dysentery. But we were not sure, because nobody saw a doctor. We just assumed that it was dysentery, and we stopped eating tofu. Many people suffered from dysentery until the mid September. Around the end of September, Manchurian people suddenly rose in rebellion against Japanese. They had never done anything towards us, but they started attacking Japanese. Residents in Manchuria were also called up for military service during the wartime. When they were discharged and went back home, they were attacked by Manchurian people. They lost everything they had. They were chased by Manchurian people with a stick, and they were hit to death unless they gave everything. We had the Manchurian rebellion. It lasted until October 10th. After that, Chinese people started fighting against each other. They looked for soldiers. More than million

soldiers used to be there, so they believed some of them still stayed there. We were afraid that Chinese people might come to the hospital, looking for us. But, around that time, we often saw several Russian in a suit visiting the hospital. We were wondering what they were doing. Around the mid October, we had a physical examination by Russian doctors. We were called up one by one. They told us that we would come back to Japan via Siberia. But we were patients, so they couldn't release us right away, but they would let us go in spring, if we wanted. We believed what they told us. We also heard the radio broadcast by G.H.Q. saying that even the soldiers would be discharged from military service and restored within a year. So we believed it. We expected to come back home. Five days later, we were taken in at _____ (?). We were forced to wear a military uniform there, and we were sent to the Soviet Union. It didn't matter whether we were patients or not. We, younger soldiers, didn't have any ranks, so we were forced to do miscellaneous duties. When we went to the Soviet, we had to follow their military discipline, even though we were Japanese and the war was over, because we all were together there. We got to Siberia on November 6th. We belonged to the 59 unit in Mukden, consisting of 500 soldiers, and the 55 unit, consisting of 1000 soldiers. The formation in Mukden usually consisted of 1000 soldiers. But our unit was a scratch team, and they could get only 500 people. So we just accompanied the 55 unit. I don't remember who was in charge of the 55 unit. Our unit was led by Captain Amakasu, and left for Siberia. We left Mukden for Siberia on November 6th. We arrived at Xinjing in the morning on the 7th. A station in Xinjing was surrounded by red bricks. The station was at the end corner of the red brick wall. When we arrived there, there were about a hundred children between two and six years old. They didn't have any parents. When they saw us, they came to us. But all doors and windows of the train were nailed. So we couldn't open them. We managed to open a little. Our train stopped by to have breakfast. Then, the children came to us. We also wanted foods. But we didn't have any. Some of us had foods, because they sneaked around the storage room, when we were in _____ (?). So people who had foods gave their foods to the children through slightly opened windows. I didn't have anything, but some money. So I gave them all money I had. It was sad. The temperature went down to minus 10 degree C. Some children were barefoot. Their feet were red. I don't know what happened to them. I think some of them were saved by Chinese people, but there were so many children left behind. I think the number was huge. We don't know the exact number. I guess there were several million people living there at that time. I don't know what happened to them and their children. I think most of men were taken to Siberia, because the Soviet even took patients there. When we got to Da Hinggan Ling Prefecture(?), several people per freight car ran away. People who came from

_____(?) like us didn't know their way about the area, so we couldn't run away. But people from Manchuria were quite familiar with the area, and they ran away. We had a meal there, then we went to _____(?). Next, we arrived at _____(?) and the train stopped there, but we weren't served with any meals. Then, we went to _____(?). When we got there, it was at eight o'clock in the morning. A locomotive was detached from freight cars there. There was a Manchurian stove inside. We also wore an outfit for cold weather. It was warm inside a room. It was time for _____(?). We were told to wear an outfit for cold weather when we went out. Though the time for _____(?) passed already, nothing happened. So I went out to check the outside. I was surprised. I didn't feel anything. But in a moment I got frosted all over my body. I rushed back to the inside. I felt so cold that I tried to warm my feet closely at the stove. Somebody yelled at me, "Do you want to cut off your feet?" Everybody stayed away from the stove. If nobody had known that, it would have been a disaster. When I went out, I couldn't see anything. I could barely see ten-meter away. It was hazy. It looked like ice or snow...

11:03:02:16

Three years... It had been three years.

11:03:21:12

I had forgotten how to cry at that time. When I got home, I didn't feel anything.

11:03:57:06

I was sick, when I heard that Japan lost the war. I just accepted the news. I was at the military hospital in _____(?). Gyokuon-hoso was played at an auditorium. We all were told to come to listen to the radio, if you could walk around. We heard a lot of noises. We were not sure what happened, but we knew we lost the war. It happened from noon to 12:30. When I came back to a room, I heard that some people killed themselves. Then, all nurses were gone. Instead of nurses, medical orderlies came.

11:05:15:20

Nobody cried. I didn't feel anything, and I just accepted the fact. It was not like that I was relieved, but I just didn't feel anything. There was nothing we could do about it. I felt that there was nothing we could do.

11:06:05:14

I think that the attack on Pearl Harbor was caused not only by Japan's impatience, but also by its conceit. Thinking back to those days, I think that it was because of Japan's impatience and conceit. The U.S.

President Roosevelt made an announcement in January 1943 that they would manufacture 120,000 planes a year. Japan fought a war against a country which was able to manufacture 10,000 planes a month. I think it was Japan's conceit. Japan barely fought well against China. The war against the U.S. was caused by Japanese politicians' conceit. It was caused by their conceit and desire for fame. If they gave careful consideration... Some people think that Japan was entrapped by the U.S. But obviously, the big difference in national strength existed between Japan and the U.S. Nevertheless, we did. It was because of Japan's conceit.

11:08:00:15

After all, it was Japan's conceit. Thinking about all I knew at that time... Before the Second Sino-Japanese War, Chinese people used to be pro-Japanese. When the Japanese military was stationed at Beijing at the First Sino-Japanese War and also at Boxer Rebellion in 1900, only Japanese people didn't plunder among the other countries. It was the Japanese military that did not plunder. So Chinese people expected us to help them. Since the Japanese military didn't plunder at the First Sino-Japanese War, Chinese people helped sick and wounded Japanese soldiers and gave us foods when we didn't have any. They also did at Siege of Tsingtao during the First World War. They helped us. That was why we won the wars.

But(?). Japanese politicians thought that we won the wars because of our military power. I think that Japan started having conceit around that time. Chinese people considered Russia as an enemy at that time. But they thought of Japan as a friendly nation. That was why Japan won the Russo-Japanese War. When we went to Siberia, Russian people were very kind to us, except the authority. They helped sick and wounded Japanese soldiers and gave us foods when we didn't have any. Before that, 300,000 of Japanese people had moved to Siberia and had lived there. They tried to get along with the Russian people there. When we went there 25 or 26 years after that, it was still influential. We were hostile to Russia, because it was communist. We were also hostile to China, because they didn't listen to us. I think that the idea that we had won all of the wars caused this war. Everything we had done before came to nothing. Japan was too puffed up. We should have thought why we could have won the wars. I think that we won those wars because other countries helped us. If we could have behaved more humbly, the war wouldn't have happened. For example, the Soviet Union captured _____(?) and helped it establish its own nation, but it was still under the Soviet control. The Soviet Union didn't do anything more. Japan did the same thing to Manchuria. It was OK. Besides, Japan supported the king in Manchuria. It was OK. We didn't invade it. It was OK. However, Japan tried to expand its territory and supported the king in Inner Mongolia.

If we don't learn anything from the past, Japan would do the same things. I think that Japan was puffed up. This is my opinion. I hope everybody would give more careful consideration to what we've done.

11:12:45:04

If the war had never happened, my life would have been different. But I don't know. We would have had a kind of impasse at some point. Even if the war had never happened, nobody knows what would have happened. If Japan had fought hard in defense of Manchuria, the consequences would have been different.